

Teachers need resources on groundwater and water quality, survey says

According to a recent survey of teachers in the Lake Washington and Northshore School Districts, 72% would like more teaching resources on groundwater and water quality.

Only 35% currently teach about groundwater, while 82% teach about surface water. This is important news, since about 30 percent of King County's population relies on groundwater wells for drinking water.

The survey was sponsored by the City of Redmond, Woodinville Water District and King County on behalf of the Redmond-Bear Creek Valley Groundwater Protection Committee.

Other survey results include:

- 67% of teachers want to be notified by email of existing groundwater information that they can download from the Web.
- 56% are extremely likely to use a Web page of resources, searchable by topics, grade level, activities, EALRs etc.
- 68% are somewhat interested, and 24% are not at all interested, in attending a forum where educators would share resources and information related to groundwater and water quality.
- Clock hours, pay for a substitute teacher and location would make teachers more likely to attend a forum.

When asked what would make it easier for them to teach about water:

- 48% said simple activities to use in the classroom.
- 46% said people who could teach for them or help them teach.
- 44% said field trips.

Teachers who responded to the survey were entered in a drawing to win a free science-based class session from Nature Vision. Fifty teachers responded to the email survey.

King County and the groundwater protection committee will respond to the survey by working to make more teaching resources, especially web-based resources, available.

The county would also like to hear from other educators who work with adults and homeowners about what educational materials they need.

Presentations for community groups on groundwater-related topics are available. If interested in a presentation, contact Donna Kalka, King County Department of Natural Resources, (206) 296-8494 or donna.kalka@metrokc.gov.

This article has been furnished by the Redmond-Bear Creek Groundwater Protection Committee.